

I want to thank all of you here who are lenders, who have worked on these programs. The folks up here on this platform are the kind of people I ran for President to try to help. And I am deeply moved by what we have seen today. It kind of reinforces my belief that these programs are on the right course and that we can make a huge difference, that there are millions of people out there, literally millions, who could be employed and empowered if we had the systems in place and the people there who felt comfortable making loans and making these kinds of judgments and understood what had to be done.

And I thank all of you for being part of a genuine American experiment. I wish you well. I ask you to redouble your efforts. We'll redouble ours, and I know the Congress will make sure that we get what we need to make these programs succeed. I thank you all. And I thank you, Senator Bumpers, Senator Pressler, for being here. We're adjourned. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to small business owners Geraldine Janes and Chris and Regina Welch.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Richard von Weizsäcker of Germany *May 24, 1993*

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, have you been surprised or disappointed by the reaction in Bosnia and Serbia——

The President. You mean, the opposition to it?

Q. The opposition and the initial support from Mr. Karadzic.

The President. No, it's about like I expected it to be.

Q. ——U.N. observers into Serbian territory, how does that complicate things?

The President. I don't want to say any more about it now. I want to talk to the President about it. We'll try to just absorb what has been said and make the appropriate deci-

sion. But I'm not particularly surprised by the various responses——

Q. Mr. President, do you hope this week goes better than last week?

The President. We had a good week last week. The Ways and Means Committee voted the bill out——signed the motor voter bill.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:05 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the District of Columbia's Budget Requests

May 24, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, I am transmitting the District of Columbia Government's 1994 budget request and 1993 budget supplemental request.

The District of Columbia Government has submitted a 1994 budget request for \$3,389 million in 1994 that includes a Federal payment of \$671.5 million, the amount authorized and requested by the Mayor and City Council. The President's recommended 1994 Federal payment level of \$653 million is also included in the District's 1994 budget as an alternative level. My transmittal of the District's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

I look forward to working with the Congress throughout the 1994 appropriation process.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
May 24, 1993.

Announcement of Presidential Scholars

May 24, 1993

The President joined Secretary of Education Richard Riley today in naming 141 high school seniors as 1993 Presidential scholars. The scholars, who are recognized for their achievements in academics or the arts, will visit Washington June 19–24 and will be honored at a White House ceremony where each will receive a Presidential scholar medallion.

“These young people represent the best in our country,” said the President. “Through hard work and community service they have earned this prestigious award. I look forward to meeting them next month at the White House.”

Final selections of the scholars were made by a 32-member Commission on Presidential Scholars chaired by New Jersey Governor Jim Florio. The Commission was appointed by President Clinton earlier this month.

The 141 winners include one young man and one young woman from each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and from American families living abroad; 15 at-large scholars and 20 scholars in the arts. Academic scholars were selected on the basis of SAT and ACT scores, essays, school recommendations, and transcripts. Arts scholars were identified through an Arts Recognition and Talent Search program conducted by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

NOTE: A list of the scholars was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With House Democratic Leaders

May 25, 1993

White House Travel Office

Q. Mr. President, we haven’t actually been able to get your view on the dealings the White House had with the FBI on all this travel stuff. Could you tell us what your view of all that is? Was it appropriate? Did you know about it?

The President. The only thing I know is that we made a decision to save the taxpayers and the press money. That’s all I know. We saved 25 percent on the first plane ride and saved the taxpayers a bunch of money. Any other questions, I’ll just refer you to Mr. McLarty——

Q. Was it your decision to go around the Attorney General and have the FBI issue a very rare statement?

The President. I had nothing to do with any decision, except to try to save the taxpayers and the press money. The press has been complaining for years that they were overcharged by the way the thing was done before. The first trip out we saved 25 percent for the press, and the taxpayers saved a lot of money. That’s all I know about it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:45 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at the “Drive American Quality” Event

May 25, 1993

Thank you very much, Mr. Bieber, and to all of you who are here. I want to say a special word of thanks to Mr. Smith and Mr. Poling, Mr. Eaton and Secretary Brown and Secretary Reich. I see Mr. Bieber just gave Secretary Reich a nightshirt. I also want to thank all the Members of the Congress who are here and for their support of the auto industry in this country.

I grew up as a boy, starting from the time I was about 6 years old, in the back of a Buick dealership. I have been interested in the automobile business all my life. I watched with sadness when it was down, and I feel great elation now that I see it coming back. These cars are what is best about America: increasing productivity, increasing quality, and gaining market share back. The people who make them are the people who deserve our support, and this administration is determined to give it to them. Last year the auto